



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVIII No. 7, Feb - 2013



**THIS MONTH – February 19, 2013**

**“Searching Beyond the Census “**

**Presented by: Patrick Lofft**



**P**atrick’s discussion and slide show will acquaint us with the depth of the subscription databases available at the Pleasanton Library including the utilization of City Directories, Google books, Passenger Lists, Army Enlistment Records, and many more resources.

Patrick’s interest in genealogy spans over 50 years. He is the current Editor of the L-AGS publication *Roots Tracer* and is the chairperson for the Pleasanton Library Genealogy Docents. ■

**From the January Meeting**

**“Gen-Legacy Planning, What Will Happen to Your Research After You're Gone ”**

**Speaker: Patricia Burrow**

**Reporter: Lee Schlenker**

**P**atricia Burrow was our speaker for our last meeting and she gave us a very concise overview of how to fix up your information and pictures making sure someone, anyone, will recognize them as important. Her talk was extensive.

She quoted a line from Jane Lindsey: “Material needs to be filed and arranged in an orderly fashion so that the heirs do not get hysterical, fed up, or worse - just give up and TOSS!”

Patricia told a story of calling her dad, asking what he was doing that day and his reply was, “I’m cleaning out my closets so you don’t have to worry about the old stuff. Important papers are going into a ‘drop dead file.’” Since she was in search of a name for her own file, she uses this “drop dead book” as her main go-to-bible for a

gem-executor’s information.

1. Your Will/Trust – If you want your hard work to remain somewhere you need a Will/Trust with directives. Choose and ask a person you feel is going to take your ancestor’s history and hold it close. That person may not want to keep it forever, hidden away, but would pass it along to other interested family members. But ask that entity if they are interested in all your findings and then name them your “Gen-Executor.” That person doesn’t have to finish your work, but just ensure the documents live for future generations to know about.
2. Directives (Codicil to your Last Will and Testament to preserve your genealogy)
  - a. Name a Gen-Executor – when written it becomes binding upon your death. ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

**Patricia Burrow**

- b. Set aside monies for sorting, organizing, or distributing your research.
  - c. Contact genealogical or historical societies or libraries AHEAD of time to find out what they will accept of donated papers and/or if they are interested in your collected researched families or original documents or photos.
3. DROP DEAD BOOK – remember, your kids don’t have a clue what you have or whether or not it is valuable! These items should be in your “Drop Dead Book.”
- a. Digital Files:
    - Database – when you do backups, send a copy (whatever is the current technology) to a relative out of town to assure they survive down the generations. Use the 3-2-1 Rule (*three* copies of each record on *two different* media with *one* copy offsite) ►

- Print a set of surname Family Group Sheets and send it to a genealogy or historical society or library.
  - Migrate digital files to new media in a timely manner. Include childhood videos, audio files, scanned photos, etc.
- b. Papers/Binders/Files: (make them interesting/colorful on the outside)
- Describe your research file organization and place a copy of that description into your Drop Dead Book plus a copy of your directive in each and every binder.
  - Loose papers – process and organize because libraries/societies are not interested in playing CSI with research someone else did. If it’s not organized into a collection it will not be accepted.
  - ALL OTHER PAPERS WILL BE TOSSED.
  - Original Documents – put them in protective sleeves, label the binder or container boldly so it doesn’t get tossed. Label the contents as to who they pertain to, how you came to have them and who is to receive them.
- c. Photos:
- Label all photos so your grandchildren will be able to identify your Mother. You are the last generation that will know who some of the people are in the photos. Use a soft lead pencil.
  - Scan all photos in order to share with other family members and ensure these images will survive. Use the rule of 3-2-1. Copy media format often.
  - Remove from old magnetic albums, then using corner mounts, acid-free and lignin-free paper remount them.
- d. Books:
- Flag every book as a family “keeper” (has your surname or origin on spine), donation to specific library. Create “notes” to place inside each book (no sticky notes) just loose ►

making sure it sticks up above the top so it won't be missed. (Pat made her own acid-free bookmarks for each.)

- Create a spreadsheet of these books and recommended disposition placing a copy in your "Drop Dead Book."

e. Memorabilia:

- Photograph all your family "heirlooms" (if you can).
- Create a word-processor file and drag in each photo then write a brief story of the piece, its lineage as best you know it and who is to receive it. Place in your "Drop Dead Book."

A few well known places for your genealogy collection are: (these are only examples)

1. Salt Lake City, Family History Library (see [FamilySearch.org/donations](http://FamilySearch.org/donations) for specific details)
2. Daughters of the American Revolution Library (see [DAR.org](http://DAR.org) for specific details)
3. New England Historic Genealogical Society (<http://www.americanancestors.org/donate-special-collections/>)
4. State/County Societies -
  - a. California Genealogical Society (Oakland, CA)
  - b. Missouri State Genealogical Society (MoSGA Library Program (a lending library))
  - c. Allen County Public Library (<http://www.genealogycenter.org/Donate.aspx>)

Patricia gave us a lot of information as well as the copy of a Codicil for your use. ■

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## President's Message

*By Dick Finn*

Here it is February already. It seems like this year is really moving fast. Have you had time to check out many of the wonderful Special Interest Groups (SIGs) we have to offer? Not only do we have the long running ones like Publishing and all of the ethnic groups like English, German, Irish, and Scandinavian and the software groups like Legacy and The Master Genealogist. We also have some new SIGs like The Family Tree Maker group for those using or thinking about using that program. The newest SIG is the Family Search group which is brand new with only one meeting so far. Please think about joining and sharing your knowledge with one or more SIGs that you might be interested in.

Your Board could use a little help. The first is a contact person for our Mini Ed series. This is not a difficult job at all and does not require much time. All you need to do is coordinate our Mini Ed speakers for our general meeting. There are plenty of people who are willing to give short talks at our meetings. We just need someone to coordinate them as to meeting and subject. The other task is more complicated.

The Board is looking for a member to step up and volunteer to be our Community Outreach person. The person in this position can make this as big or small job as they would like. The object is to make our society more visible in the community - to share our interest in a great hobby.

Examples are the talks that Sande Burns has given at libraries and the Ask Granny program that we will be having at retirement homes.

Happy searching for more distant cousins!

Dick





## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### February 2013

- 5 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of **Francie Lloyd** in Danville.
- 19 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From the I-680 Freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 1/2 miles.

#### March 2013

- 5 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be held at the home of **Francie Lloyd** in Danville.
- 19 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: *Bill George*

#### Family Tree Maker SIG

The FTM SIG is off to a great start with about a dozen people attending in January. Susan Rush has very interesting topics.

#### Volunteers needed to Help Danville FHC

Our new Danville Family History Center contact Person is Carol Parmley. She has been very enthusiastic and helpful with our SIG meetings. She is hoping our group can provide some volunteers to help at the Danville Family History Center. Although they can use volunteers any time the Family History Center is open for patrons, Wednesday afternoon from 1 - 4 pm really needs a couple people. If you are interested, Carol can be reached at 925-336-4820 or ►

by email at [carolparmley@comcast.net](mailto:carolparmley@comcast.net)

#### New FamilySearch SIG

We have discontinued the DNA SIG for now, as people have taken their DNA tests and are moving on. So a new SIG is being tried out, a FamilySearch SIG. [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) is quite a resource, as it's both a source of genealogy source records and a home for family trees. And it's free. I attended several talks on FamilySearch about their new "Family Trees" and have become quite enthusiastic about it. FamilySearch also has a great Wikipedia-style help system for Genealogy research, in general. I became very interested in FamilySearch when a FHC docent showed me 14 pages of ancestors of one of my "treetop" third great grandmothers. It was quite astounding to me, as I frequently come to dead ends on my family tree. There were over 100 ancestors listed for my "tree top" ancestor and I'm still busy verifying all the information.

#### SIG Attendees Get Emails

I have a sign up sheet out every meeting, if you want to get personal emails, inviting you to your favorite SIG. If you're not currently notified a few days before the meeting, sign up and we'll add you. All the information about SIGs is on our SRVGS web site, <http://srvgensoc.org/sig.html>, including a calendar of the various month's meetings. See you at a SIG! ■

### SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



#### FAMILY TREE MAKER/ ANCESTRY – They will meet **Tuesday February 26<sup>th</sup> (the fourth Tuesday)**

**at 10 am** at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. The topic of discussion for this meeting will be: "*How to enter sources in FTM and researching Newspapers in Ancestry.com*". Come join the conversation, keep the group alive and bring your questions. Susan Rush has volunteered to be the coordinator for this group. You may contact her at [gen4you@astound.net](mailto:gen4you@astound.net) or 674-0929. ►



**FAMILY SEARCH** - Subject to member interest, this will be a new Special Interest Group.

It is proposed that they meet **Thursday February 14<sup>th</sup> (the second Thursday) at 10 am till noon** at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. The topic for the new FamilySearch SIG will be: "*How to register for the Family Search Family Tree*". <http://familysearch.org/invite/familytree> FamilySearch.org is a nonprofit family history organization dedicated to connecting families across generations. **FamilySearch.org** is the largest genealogy organization in the world. Listen for further information to be announced at the General Meeting. Refer also to the notes for the speaker at the November general meeting of SRVGS.



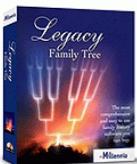
**GERMAN** – The German Group will meet **Wednesday February 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am (the fourth Wednesday)** at the home of

Dorothy Baker in Walnut Creek. The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact her via e-mail, [shodegard@att.net](mailto:shodegard@att.net) or phone 932-6796 for more information



**IRISH** - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup> (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am.**, at the

home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group. You may contact Patty via e-mail: [russpat@comcast.net](mailto:russpat@comcast.net) or phone 229-0889.



**LEGACY SOFTWARE** – This is a genealogy software users group. This group will meet **Monday February 25<sup>th</sup> (the Fourth Monday) at 1-3 pm** at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. The

topic for this meeting will be how to use Legacy to up- and download Family Trees from Family Search Family Tree. They are also scheduled to meet on March 25<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in joining this group, contact Sharon Clay at: [sharonclay@comcast.net](mailto:sharonclay@comcast.net), or 925-462-4518.



**PUBLISHING** – The publishing group will meet **Thursday** ►

**February 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am** (the third Thursday of the month) at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville. Publishing a book about your family's story need not be a mysterious process. The Publishing Group invites you to monthly meetings where you will learn the ins and outs of publishing. This informal group of members will offer advice, encouragement, suggestions and guide you to publishing sources as you develop your book. Members that are interested in joining should let Francie know ahead of time that they plan to attend. For further information, contact Francie at 837-9382 or e-mail: [frances\\_lloyd@comcast.net](mailto:frances_lloyd@comcast.net) ■

## CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 13 February Wednesday 10 am** The East Bay Genealogical Society will hold one of their regular meetings in the meeting room of the Oakland Family History Research Center, 4766 Lincoln Ave. in Oakland. The member speaker will be Nancy Niles Wehner. She will speak about Genetic Genealogy. She is a consulting pharmaceutical toxicologist and an experienced genealogical researcher. Visit [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caebaygs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caebaygs)
- 14 February Thursday 7 pm** The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular monthly meetings at the LDS Building, 1360 Alberta Way in Concord. Janice Sellars will make a presentation about Vital Records.
- 15 February Friday 1:15 to 3 pm** The Mount Diablo Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings at the Creekside Clubhouse meeting room in Rossmoor. **Please note the change of meeting location.** They will meet on the third Friday of each month. The topic of the presentation will be: "*Cemeteries are not a Dead Subject.*" The speaker will be Virginia Kysh.
- 19 February Tuesday 6:15 pm** The Santa Clara County Historical and ►

Genealogical society will hold one of its regular meetings in the Cedar Room of the Santa Clara Central Park library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. Lis B Lee will talk about how Vital Records are Vital. She is a graduate of National Institute for Genealogical Studies of the University of Toronto and has her PLCGS with certificates in US, Canadian and Irish genealogy. Visit [www.scchgs.org](http://www.scchgs.org) for further information.

**20 February Wednesday 7:30 pm** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will hold a regular member meeting at the Grace Lutheran Church Hall, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. Vern Dale and Martha Wallace will give a presentation titled "*Territorial Lands and Records: Where Are They? Part Two*" As the United States grew, territories were created to organize and manage new land. Vern Dale is a retired engineer who enjoys exploring his family history. Martha Wallace is a retired middle school teacher who volunteers at NARA and enjoys history and searching for her ancestors. Visit [www.smcgs.org](http://www.smcgs.org) for details.

**7 March Thursday 1 to 3 pm** The Genealogical Society of Vallejo-Benicia will hold a regular meeting in the auditorium on the second floor at 734 Marin Street in Vallejo. Songs and Stories with a St. Patrick's Day theme will be presented by Dona Nunes. Their regular meeting date is the first Thursday of the month.

**16 March Saturday** The Sacramento Genealogy Society is sponsoring a seminar featuring Thomas MacEntee creator of GeneaBloggers. He will present four beginner level topics: Building a research Toolbox, Internet Archive, social networking and Wonderful uses for unusual tools. Visit <http://www.rootcellar.org/> for further information.

**20 April Saturday** – The Sonoma County Genealogical Society presents their Spring Seminar featuring Barbara Renick. For more information go to <http://www.scgs.org>. ►

**4 May Saturday** – The San Mateo County Genealogical Society presents their Spring Seminar featuring D Joshua Taylor. For more information go to <http://www.smcgs.org>.

**8 - 11 May Wednesday thru Saturday** The national Genealogical Society Family History Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada Visit [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org) or call 1-800-473-0060 ext. 116. The conference will include programs for all skill levels of research experience and will feature tracks on DNA, ethnic research, the law, migration, methodology, the West, women, and more. More than seventy-five nationally recognized speakers will provide over one hundred and fifty lectures on a wide variety of topics. The conference registration brochure, with complete details, is online as a pdf file ([http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/attendee\\_registration](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/attendee_registration)) and the lecture schedule is available on the NGS website in a searchable format. ■

## EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani



Once again this month the California Genealogical Society [www.californiaancestors.org](http://www.californiaancestors.org) continues to offer a wide variety of activities.

- Its City Directory Library will be open on Sat., Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> and Fri., 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 4 PM.
- Also on Sat., Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, the Society will have a special Event. The *115th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon* will be held from 11am - 3pm with Andy Anderson at the Nile Hall, Preservation Park, 668 Thirteenth Street Oakland, ►

CA 94612. Register online.

- Book Repair Committee meets on Tues., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:30– 3:00 p.m.
- The Writing SIG meets on Wed. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- The popular course, *Writing Your Family History: Start Now!* Starts again on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. Register online.
- The San Francisco SIG – also meets on the 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
- The RootsMagic SIG will meet on Tues., the 19<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- The Black History Month Panel Discussion will take place on Sat., the 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Register online.
- Coming in March: Register online for the Society's First Saturday Intro Class.



The Oakland Family History Center lists 26 learning opportunities in February!! Please check its website [https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Oakland\\_California\\_Large\\_Multi-stake\\_Family\\_History\\_Center/Class\\_Schedule](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Oakland_California_Large_Multi-stake_Family_History_Center/Class_Schedule) for specifics.



**Save the date: (and plan for a good trip)**

- The 13th Annual CGS Salt Lake City Tour is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, Register online at [www.californiaancestors.org](http://www.californiaancestors.org)

- The Sonoma County Genealogical Society [www.smccgs.org](http://www.smccgs.org) Spring Seminar is featuring Barbara Renick on April 20th.

- The San Mateo County Genealogical Society [www.smccgs.org](http://www.smccgs.org) Spring Seminar will ►

### HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Dick Finn 925-447-9652

e-mail: [president@srvgensoc.org](mailto:president@srvgensoc.org)

**1st V.P.** Russ Erickson 925-229-0889

**2nd V.P. Program:**

Rae Atwood 925-376-7527

**3rd V.P. Membership:**

Ed Mason 925-838-7848

**Recording Secretary:**

Mary Tom 925-376-2756

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Jan Mangold 925-820-5901

**Treasurer:** Vern Segelke 925-838-8570

**Parliamentarian:**

Virginia Rood 925-937-8659

### NEWSLETTER TEAM

**Coordinator:** Bob Venter 925-454-9919

e-mail: [rjventer@comcast.net](mailto:rjventer@comcast.net)

**Calendar Coordinator:**

Vern Segelke 925-838-8570

e-mail: [v.m.seg3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:v.m.seg3@sbcglobal.net)

**Mailing:** Lucy Carver 925-837-3146

*Deadline to put information in the Newsletter is the Last Thursday of the month.*

Members are encourage to submit articles for the Newsletter by mail or email to the Coordinator.

### INDIVIDUAL HELP

Do you need individual help in overcoming a "brick wall" in your research? Go to the SRVGS web site at: <http://srvgensoc.org/>, click on RESOURCES, then click on INDIVIDUAL HELP FOR SRVGS MEMBERS.

Want to help someone who is having research problems in your area of knowledge? Call Harry Baggett at 925-837-7960 to have your name added to the SRVGS Individual Help list.

Harry Baggett [trvrl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trvrl@sbcglobal.net)

feature D. Joshua Taylor on May 4th.

- Annual conference of the National Genealogical Society <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/> will be held in Las Vegas, 8 - 11 May 2013.

- The SCGS Jamboree 2013 will be from June 6th – 9th in Burbank, CA.

- The California Family History Expo 2013 <https://www.familyhistoryexpos.com/expos> will take place on June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento.

- The Concord FHC “Digging for Your Roots” will be held on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. ■



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San Ramon Valley  
Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 305  
Diablo, CA 94528-0305

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